The Park Avenue Synagogue

Bulletin

APRIL 8, 1948 ADAR II 28, 5708

Junior League Dance For Benefit of UJA

The Annual Cocktail Dance of the Junior League takes place this year on Sunday afternoon, April 18th from 2 to 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre, Fifth Avenue and 61st Street. This gala affair, which climaxes the social season of the Junior League, is under the co-Chairmanship of the Misses Selma Jerskey and Hortense Levy and Mr. Harry Lewis; and once again the proceeds are going to the United Jewish Appeal.

Last year the Junior League was able to raise $1,000.00 to contribute to the Junior Division of the UJA and this year has set $1,500.00 as its goal. The admission is $2.40 per person, including tax, and tickets can be procured by writing to Mr. Ira L. Lee, 12 East 88th Street, New York City 28, New York. Jeno Bartal and his orchestra will provide the music. All young people of the Congregation and their friends should attend this affair for here is a chance not only to have a good time, but also to help a worthy cause.

In conjunction with the dance a television set (completely installed) is being given away by the Junior League to some lucky person. Most members of the Synagogue have received letters inform-

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Service Thursday, April 8th at 6 P.M. To Protest U.S. Reversal on Partition

This Synagogue, in conjunction with the Synagogue Council of America, has designated Thursday, April 8th, as a Day of Intercession in behalf of our brothers in Palestine and in protest against the abandonment by the United States of the partition plan for Palestine as approved by the United Nations. Special services conducted by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer will be held in the Synagogue, as part of nationwide services at 6:00 p. m. on Thursday evening. Cantor Putterman has prepared a special musical service.

Prayers will be held, not only in the 6000 synagogues in this country, but also in Palestine, England, South Africa and Australia on this day of mobilization and prayer.

The Rabbis and other leaders of American Israel are summoning our people to gatherings in all synagogues and centers throughout the land to give expression to the shocked conscience of America at the inexplicable action of our State Department; to demand the fulfillment of the plighted word of this country and of the nations of the world, and to pray for God's help. Every member of this congregation is urged to respond to this call by attending this special service.

Parents' Association Card Party April 18th

Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz, chairman of the Annual Parents' Association Card Party, has announced that this year's social function will be held in the Vestry on Sunday evening, April 18th. Members of the Congregation and their friends are invited to partake in the evening's fun. Rrefreshments, prizes and good company are promised for the admission fee of $1.00. Checks may be sent to the chairman at her home, 9 East 96th Street, or tickets may be purchased at the door.

It is especially important that this Card Party be financially successful, because these funds will help the Parents' Association to sponsor the dance it is planning for teen agers in the Synagogue. This gala evening, which will feature Square Dancing, led by a caller, social dancing, games and refreshments, will take place during the first week of May.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Special Service of Intercession.....Thursday, April 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Sabbath Eve.....Friday, April 9th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on

"The Psalms—As Poems for the Lost and Disillusioned"

Sabbath Eve.....Friday, April 16th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach on

"The Present Crisis and Jewish Youth"

Sabbath Morning.....Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.

Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 10:00 a.m.

Musical portion of Service under direction of Cantor Putterman, assisted by choir. Mr. Isidore Geller at the organ.

Resume of Last Late Friday Evening Sermons

The last two late Friday evening sermons of this season will be presented on Friday evening, April 9th and April 16th, by Rabbi Milton Steinberg and Rabbi Morris Kertzer, respectively.

Rabbi Steinberg will speak on, "The Psalms — As Poems For The Lost and Disillusioned."

The Psalms are generally viewed as classic expressions of faith and constancy in it, of goodness and fidelity to it. And much of the Psalms, perhaps most, is of just this order—believing, confident.

But a large part of Psalms is of darker hue, bespeaking emotions all of us experience but few acknowledge, moods of doubt and futility, of sinfulness and despair. Reflecting these moods, the

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Vol. 2 No. 13

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

Many harsh things can rightfully be said concerning our country's reversal of position on the Partition of Palestine: that it is shocking in its capriciousness; unconscionable in its abandonment, under the threat of force, of a course carefully weighed and deliberately adopted as the right; brutal in its desertion of the D.P.'s rotting in their internment camps and of Jewish Palestine fighting for its existence; wanton in the damage it has inflicted on the U.N.; humiliating in its besmirching of American honor and prestige; a bad political bargain in that it has won for our country only the undependable, mercenary friendship of the Arabs, a friendship always available to us so long as the weather remains fair and we have money to spend; and, finally, stupid, being that kind of political move of which Talleyrand once said mordantly: "It is worse than a crime, it is a blunder". And what a blunder, to boot! For obviously America has leaped directly from the frying pan into the fire. In its efforts to evade employing force to implement Partition it has committed itself to a U.N. Trusteeship which will require as much force, if not more.

Such are the harsh things which can and are being said by all manner of men and governments concerning Mr. Austin's performance before the United Nations' Security Council on March 19th last. But what particularly requires to be said among Jews is that the reversal of policy on the part of the American government introduces a new factor in the lives of American Jews. Heretofore and for a full generation Zionism has been a declared policy of our country. Perhaps the declaration was more pretense than sincerity. Nevertheless, our Zionist efforts enjoyed the sanction of being dedicated to goals of which our country ostensibly approved. That has now ceased to be the case. Our government has shifted its ground and is antagonistic to our cause.

The right of a citizen in a democracy to oppose the stated policy of his country —so long as he remains within the law in doing so—is beyond question. What is not beyond question is whether American Jews will have the courage for that kind of enterprise. That it will take courage of no mean order is made the more likely by virtue of the temperament of our President. Mr. Truman is the kind of person who, when involved in an embroglio, lashes out not against the malefactors who created the evil to begin with but against those who called his attention to it, evoked an expression from him concerning it and so, as he seems to tell himself, maneuvered him into a dilemma. He has already been critical in this spirit of American Jews. He is likely to be even more vocal on that score in the future, the more bitterly in proportion as the course to which he has committed himself fails, as his shame over it grows deeper, as it evokes public disapproval. For, as is common knowledge, against no one is a man so angry as against those he has wronged; toward no one so vindictive.

Now, I know my brethren of the House of Israel, American branch, that they are weak of knees, faint of heart, afraid of many things, but of none more than being called un-American, especially by a non-Jew in public office. I know that under the barest suggestion of such a threat many of them have already begun to wonder whether it might not be better for Jews to be less vigorous about Zionism, even to crawl out of it the least bit. This timidity, I believe, is among the prime perils of the Zionist cause in the present crisis. For if it becomes widespread and dominant, it will mean that the D.P.'s in their internment camps and the Jews of Palestine shall have been deserted by their sole dependable ally.

For this reason I wish to quote again the appeal for steadfastness on the part of American Jews which was the peroration of my sermon to our congregation on March 19th. Those who were not present will now hear this appeal for the first time. Those who have heard it once cannot be hurt, they may be heartened, by hearing it again.

I said then, I say again now:—

"It is a good fight that we are fighting. A fight for homes for the homeless; for mercy and justice for those who have never known either; for sanctuary for the Jewish spirit and tradition; for the very survival of Israel; a fight to which we have no alternative as Jews; a fight too for the United Nations and America's honor.

"A fight finally which, as I have shown tonight, is not only altogether consistent with our Americanism, but a fulfilment of it.

"Well, are these not enough virtues to justify our purpose? What other merits does a cause have to have before we American Jews will have the courage to be steadfast in it?

"And now this fight is at its climax, in its crucial phase. In a few short weeks it will be decided one way or the other.

"*Ba-u banim ad mashber,* ran the cry of King Hezekiah to Isaiah, the prophet, *v'koach ayin l'ledah.*

" 'The child has come to the breach, but strength is lacking to bring it to birth'.

"A few moments more, as history measures time, and the decision will be made, whether for life or death, in the case of the infant certainly, but perhaps with the mother also.

"In such a juncture, having come so far and endured so much, fearing such fears, hoping such hopes, shall the woman hesitate?

"Let her bear down, let her press hard, let her plunge every last energy into her labor—that in the end there may emerge out of her blood and anguish the new life that struggles, that needs, that has the clear right to be born."

—MILTON STEINBERG

Junior League Dance

(*continued from page* 1)

ing them how to obtain this set. We are sure that all congregants will want to participate in this aspect of the affair. Send your responses immediately to Miss Marilyn H. Hittner, 211 Central Park West, New York City 24, if you have not already done so; or contact her for any additional information on how to get this television set.

Mrs. M. Grass Urges Letters to Congress

In several issues of the BULLETIN *published last year, there were included letters written by members of the Congregation urging support of the Stratton Bill. Unfortunately this worthwhile piece of legislation is still pending in Committee.*

At the present time the Wiley Bill which is inferior to its predecessor has been reported out of Committee. In connection with this we quote herewith a letter received by the Editors from Mrs. Milton Grass, Chairman of the Home Study Program.

"Especially, while D.P.'s wait, it is discouraging for U.S. citizens, who do not believe that discrimination against certain minority groups should have the sanction of law, to note the provisions of the Wiley Bill, relative to the admission of D.P.'s to the United States.

"This bill, which is now out of Committee and presently on the way to the Senate floor, is unpleasantly reminiscent of the 1924 Immigration Act, which with its 'national origins' basis for admissions, actually scored limitation of admissions on the basis of racial status and religious identity.

"Discriminatory features of the Wiley Bill are: 1. Individuals who entered D.P. camps, in Germany, Austria and Italy after Dec. 22, 1945 be ineligible for admission. This would shut the U.S. door to thousands who were fugitives to the camps after that date because of post-war religious persecution. 2. 50% of visas be reserved for agricultural workers. This selectivity of one group will keep out others, also essential to our man-power needs. 3. 50% of the visas be reserved for persons whose country has been annexed by a foreign power. This preference will favor persons from Baltic States and Eastern Poland.

"From the foregoing the arithmetical equation is clear and simple. 1 - 2 - 3—very few Jewish persons will be qualified to enter our country.

"And there are other deficiencies in the Wiley Bill—provisions which would slow up the war refugees' U.S. entry and impede their resettlement. This new Displaced Persons bill is an incredibly watered down version of the Stratton bill which never came out of Congressional Committee last year. At least in

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For Your Information

The Synagogue wishes to extend its congratulations to Irving Geist, one of its congregants, upon receiving the Navy Bureau of Medicine's highest award—the certificate of appreciation, on March 24th. Mr. Geist was honored for his fund-raising activities on behalf of the Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial swimming pools, built at the Bronx Veterans Hospital and at Halloran General Hospital, and for his work in getting private medical care for veterans ill with tuberculosis.

This column records with pride the announcement that Rabbi Milton Steinberg's name is included in the 1948 issue of "Who's Who in America".

Rabbi Morris Kertzer was the main speaker at the Southern Convention of the United Synagogue of America on April 4th at Norfolk, Virginia.

This year, the Model Passover *Seder* for the Religious School will be held in the Vestry on Sunday morning, April 18th.

The entire first floor of the Jewish Museum at 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue is now devoted to the exhibition of Children's Art from Jewish Communities all over the world. Exhibits have already been received from Holland, Turkey, Germany, Hungary, Palestine, France, China and India.

Will You Attend ?

Junior League

Annual Cocktail Dance, Hotel Pierre, Sunday, April 18th, 2 p.m.

Parents' Association

Card Party, Vestry, Sunday, April 18th, 8 p.m.

Passover Seder Training Session

Vestry, Monday, April 19th, 8:30 p.m.

Sisterhood

Monthly meeting, Vestry, Tuesday, April 20th, Guest speaker.

Young Marrieds "B"

Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Metzger, 219 West 81st Street, Wednesday, April 21st, 8:30 p.m.

New Seating Rules Authorized by Board

Mr. Ezra Cohen chairman of the Membership Committee of the Synagogue wishes to announce the new rules for the seating of members which the Board of Trustees adopted at its recent meeting. According to Mr. Cohen, these new rules assure complete fairness to both old and new members. The following is the plan which will be rigorously followed:

1. New members are to be assigned seats in the vestry as seats become available.

2. As vacant seats occur in the Auditorium the assignment to different locations shall be made in the following order: a.) from the rear of the main floor to the front thereof; b.) from the balcony to the main floor; c.) from the vestry to the balcony. A sub-waiting list shall be established and maintained to effect such changes.

3. The Board of Trustees at the recommendation of the Membership Committee can authorize deviations.

4. Seat vacancies in the auditorium which occur too late to be filled, in the manner prescribed, before the coming High Holydays, shall be filled only on a temporary basis for the said current Holyday season. After such Holydays the said seats so temporarily occupied shall be filled in accordance with the rules herein provided.

Birth

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Blumstein on the birth of their son, William Alan, and to the proud grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Irving Shapiro.

Bar Mitzvah

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Starkman on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, James, which will be held on April 17th.

Engagement

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Cross on the engagement of their daughter, Phyllis Joan, to Dr. Vincent Patrick Perlo.

Marriage

Congratulations to Mr. Edwin Kohn on his recent marriage to Miss Rhoda Freeman.

Anniversary

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Luebeck who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on April 15th.

Training for Passover Seder Offered April 19th

Mr. Israel B. Oseas, Chairman of the Ritual Committee, has announced the inauguration of a program designed to aid members of the congregation to conduct a Seder service that will be both traditional and meaningful. A Passover *Seder* Training Session will be held in the Vestry of the Synagogue on Monday evening, April 19th at 8:30 p.m. The Rabbis and the Cantor will offer suggestions as to the selection of a suitable *Haggadah*, the ritual to be followed and the music to be used.

Through the co-operation of the Library Committee of the School Board, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, The United Synagogue Book Service will have a special display of Passover *Haggadahs*, and ceremonial objects that will enhance the *Seder* service. Members will be able to purchase these articles on the evening of the Training Session.

The Parents' Association, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Henry Howe, will act as co-sponsors of this project.

Letter to Editor

To the Editor:

As one who reads the BULLETIN from beginning to end, may I be permitted to express what I believe to be the general opinion of the members of the Synagogue, that the Hooper rating for the BULLETIN would be tops. Any failure of its readers to voice their approval should not be regarded as indifference but just another example of our habit of taking things for granted.

If the BULLETIN were to stop reaching us, I assure you there would be a volume of audible criticism. Where could there be found a suitable substitute for this medium of news and information about the Synagogue and its numerous activities! And who would want to miss the editorial column "from the desk" of our beloved spiritual leaders?

No, I do not think any test is needed to measure the Hooper rating of the BULLETIN. The BULLETIN Staff is doing a splendid job and is to be congratulated upon its fine literary publication. May they continue their excellent service. I feel confident that I express the general feeling of the entire Congregation.

—NELSON RUTTENBERG

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Do You Want A
TELEVISION SET
The JUNIOR LEAGUE of
the
PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
is practically giving one away at its
ANNUAL COCKTAIL DANCE
Hotel Pierre
Sunday, April 18 — 2 to 5:30 p.m.
You Can Get It
For Particulars Contact
Miss Marilyn H. Hittner
211 Central Park West, N. Y. C. 24
Write immediately for there is not much time left!

Advertisement

Resume of Sermons

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Psalms speak with especial articulateness to and for an age like ours.

What these darker Psalms have to say; what strength and guidance they can afford us, will be highlighted in the sermon.

Rabbi Kertzer's sermon will be on "The Present Crisis and Jewish Youth". In his talk, Rabbi Kertzer will discuss the current reactions of young Jews to the chaotic conditions of today. What they are thinking, their reactions to the Palesine crisis, and the conflicts which it stirs up in American Jews are several of the important points to be covered.

What guidance are they getting? How strong is their Jewish fibre? These are questions to be answered.

These are the last sermons to be preached at late Friday evening services. During the Passover festival there will be no sermons delivered at the evening services and the last late service on May 7th will be devoted to Cantor Putterman's Annual Service of Liturgical Music by Contemporary Composers.

A Memorial Service in honor of the late Mrs. Dora Spiegel, a former President of the Women's League of the United Synagogue, will be held at the Park Avenue Synagogue, on Sunday afternoon, April 18th at 3:30 p.m.

Poem by Student

In perusing the *Courier*, the newspaper writen by the children of the Religious School we came across a poem contributed by Alice Steinberg, 8 years old, of Class 3, which we thought would be of interest to the members of the Synagogue.

"GOD

Above the clouds, I cannot see,
A spirit looking down on me;
A spirit that we all should feel,
A spirit that can see you steal!

One who knows the lie you tell,
One who cares and makes you well;
One who made the stones and stars,
One who's seeing near and far!

Now you know Who I mean,
The Spirit that cannot be seen;
Above the clouds, where I can't see
The Spirit that looks down on me!"

In the last issue of the BULLETIN another poem was printed. This poem was written by Mr. Albert Epstein, a member of the Congregation.

Letters to Congress

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this session we have a bill on the Senate Calendar which gives each one of us a *chance to press for liberalizing amendments.*

"If one does not communicate his protest on the Wiley Bill (S.2242) to those who represent him in Washington, many Displaced Persons will lose their chance, and, the U.S. citizen will lose his chance to block still another piece of discriminatory legislation."

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